

BMJ Publishing Group

Irish Dishes

Source: *The British Medical Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 4020 (Jan. 22, 1938), p. 182

Published by: [BMJ Publishing Group](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/25368637>

Accessed: 27/08/2013 16:37

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Digitization of the British Medical Journal and its forerunners (1840-1996) was completed by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) in partnership with The Wellcome Trust and the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) in the UK. This content is also freely available on PubMed Central.



BMJ Publishing Group is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The British Medical Journal*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

time the rate is higher than it was in the preceding year. Dr. Rice suggests that the change resulted from the better economic conditions prevailing during the greater part of 1937. The 77,466 deaths represent a death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 of population, "a remarkably low rate for a large city like New York with its housing problems, its many foreign born and with so many persons unemployed. We would have made even a better showing had it not been for a sharp outbreak of epidemic influenza beginning at Christmas, 1936, and lasting throughout January of 1937. This outbreak cost over 1,500 lives, a loss more than double the deaths caused by measles, whooping-cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and typhoid fever all combined." Commenting on the 6,505 deaths from pneumonia during the year, Commissioner Rice expresses the hope that the pneumonia control programme recently inaugurated by the Department of Health will soon begin to show results in a reduction of the death rate from this disease. "Early diagnosis and prompt use of the proper serum after the type of pneumonia germ has been determined will undoubtedly save many lives. Our laboratory has effective serums available for five or six of the most prevalent types, and these account for about four-fifths of all the pneumonias now occurring in the city. We have typing stations in each of the boroughs, and the one in Manhattan gives a 24-hour service, including Sundays and holidays." A feature of the Department's activities was the development of the campaign against syphilis. The close of the year saw twenty health districts organized, each with a full-time health officer in charge; nine of the centres are housed in new buildings specially planned to provide complete health services for the people of the district. The Department of Health now has 385 typhoid carriers under supervision. They report to the Department twice a year and are given instructions regarding the precautions to be taken in order to prevent the infection of others. They are not permitted to engage in food-handling occupations. Thanks to the sanitary supervision and chlorination of the municipal water supply, and the pasteurization of all milk sold in the city, New York has had no water-borne or milk-borne outbreaks of typhoid fever during the past quarter of a century.

HOSPITALS FOR CIVILIAN CASUALTIES IN AIR RAIDS

As was indicated in the course of proceedings upon the Air Raid Precautions Bill, the Government has for some time had under consideration the arrangements to be made for civilian casualties in the event of an emergency. Local authorities are already making in their air raid precautions schemes provision for the establishment of clearing hospitals, and it has now been decided that, with a view to making the fullest use of the existing facilities and extending them if necessary, a complete survey of the hospital accommodation of the country (including any earmarked as clearing hospitals) should be carried out. The survey will be undertaken in England and Wales by the Minister of

Health, and in Scotland by the Department of Health for Scotland. In England it will be made through the agency of a staff composed of the general inspectors of the Ministry and certain selected medical officers. In Wales it will be made by the Welsh Board of Health. These officers have been instructed in the first instance to confer with medical officers of health concerned and with the leading representatives of the voluntary and other hospitals. So far as the provision of accommodation in or on the sites of mental hospitals and mental deficiency institutions is involved, the survey will be undertaken in England and Wales by the Board of Control, and in Scotland by the General Board of Control for Scotland.

IRISH DISHES

Miss Florence Irwin has brought together a number of dishes designed "both to nourish and to please"—as Mr. St. John Ervine says of them in his entertaining preface to the book.¹ In it there is also much that is instructive. For here the non-Hibernian cook may learn—learning often sorely needed—how to treat the potato with the culinary consideration it deserves. In vain may expert committees of the League vaunt the virtues of the vegetable, in vain advise its substitution for white flour—that frequent disturber of gastrointestinal peace—so long as there are cooks who make of this goodly tuber a soapy sacrifice. Miss Irwin tells of ways in which it may be rightly cooked and served—jacketed and unjacketed—of potato-cake and potato-pudding, of potato-oaten farls, and "champ"; chive, nettle, parsley, pea, and scallion. She tells, too, of right uses to which oatmeal and wheatmeal may be put and of other things showing how "protective foods" may be combined to form delicious dishes. Poets, politicians, orators, and saints, doctors, divines, and Presidents of the United States are among Erin's gifts to the English-speaking race: these, and the staple breakfast dish of Britishers where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run. Who knows what the far-flung Empire owes to the union of the bacon with the egg? Yet, as Miss Irwin tells us, the conjunction came about "by the grace of God and the irregular proclivities of a lazy hen." Champ, stirabout, and brotchan roy; broth, brawn, and real Irish stew; durgan, flummery, and sowans—these are among the dishes of which, we feel, nutrition experts would approve; but "soda-bread" we think they would eschew. "Synthetic flour, synthetic fruit, synthetic juices, and synthetic bread must one day result in synthetic people. It is to avoid that calamity that this book is published, and I wish, indeed, that it may fulfil its holy purpose." So says St. John Ervine—and we endorse this hope.

Professor C. Regaud has retired from his position as director of the Radium Institute of Paris and has been succeeded by Dr. Antoine Lacassagne.

¹ *Irish Country Recipes*. Compiled by Florence Irwin. Belfast: The Northern Whig, Ltd. (2s. 6d.)